

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-38. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - vi).

1. (Amended) A method of identifying an intestinal polyp comprising the steps of:
 - a) obtaining a nucleic acid sample derived from intestinal tissue; and
 - b) determining an expression profile from expression products of at least three informative nucleic acid molecules having increased expression in an intestinal polyp relative to a control,wherein increased expression of said nucleic acid molecules in said sample is indicative of an intestinal polyp.
2. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the intestinal polyp is an upper intestinal polyp or a colonic polyp.
3. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sample derived from intestinal tissue is derived from upper intestinal tissue or colonic tissue.
4. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the expression product is DNA.
5. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the expression product is mRNA.
6. (Amended) The method according to Claim 4, wherein the expression profile is determined utilizing specific hybridization probes.
7. (Amended) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the expression profile is determined utilizing specific hybridization probes.
8. (Amended) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the expression profile is determined utilizing oligonucleotide microarrays.

9. (Amended) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the expression profile is determined using oligonucleotide microarrays.
10. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the expression product is a polypeptide.
11. (Amended) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the expression profile is determined utilizing antibodies.
12. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein one or more informative nucleic acid molecules is selected from the group consisting of apoptosis genes, cell cycle genes, tumor suppressor genes, cell adhesion genes, transcription related genes, and inflammation genes.
13. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein one or more informative nucleic acid molecules is selected from the group consisting of the nucleic acid molecules in Figures 1A-1U.
14. (Amended) A method of identifying an intestinal polyp comprising the steps of:
 - a) obtaining a polypeptide sample derived from intestinal tissue; and
 - b) determining an expression profile from expression products of at least three informative nucleic acid molecules having increased expression in an intestinal polyp relative to a control, said expression products being polypeptides, wherein increased expression of said expression products in said sample is indicative of an intestinal polyp.
15. (Amended) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the intestinal polyp is an upper intestinal polyp or a colonic polyp.

16. (Amended) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the polypeptide sample derived from intestinal tissue is derived from upper intestinal tissue or colonic tissue.
17. (Amended) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the expression profile is determined utilizing antibodies.
18. (Amended) The method according to Claim 14, wherein one or more informative nucleic acid molecules is selected from the group consisting of apoptosis genes, cell cycle genes, tumor suppressor genes, cell adhesion genes, transcription related genes, and inflammation genes.
19. (Amended) The method according to Claim 14, wherein one or more informative nucleic acid molecules is selected from the group consisting of the genes in Figures 1A-1U.
20. (Amended) A method of identifying an intestinal polyp comprising the steps of:
 - a) obtaining a nucleic acid sample derived from intestinal tissue; and
 - b) determining an expression profile from an expression product of at least one informative nucleic acid molecule having decreased expression in an intestinal polyp relative to a control,wherein decreased expression of said nucleic acid molecule in said sample is indicative of an intestinal polyp.
21. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the intestinal polyp is an upper intestinal polyp or a colonic polyp.
22. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the nucleic acid sample derived from intestinal tissue is derived from upper intestinal tissue or colonic tissue.
23. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the gene expression product is DNA.

24. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the gene expression product is mRNA.
25. (Amended) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the gene expression profile is determined utilizing specific hybridization probes.
26. (Amended) The method according to Claim 24, wherein the gene expression profile is determined utilizing specific hybridization probes.
27. (Amended) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the gene expression profile is determined utilizing oligonucleotide microarrays.
28. (Amended) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the gene expression profile is determined using oligonucleotide microarrays.
29. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the gene expression product is a polypeptide.
30. (Amended) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the gene expression profile is determined utilizing antibodies.
31. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20, wherein one or more informative genes is selected from the group consisting of apoptosis genes, cell cycle genes, tumor suppressor genes, cell adhesion genes, transcription related genes, and inflammation genes.
32. (Amended) The method according to Claim 20, wherein one or more informative genes is selected from the group consisting of the genes in Figures 1A-1U.
33. A method of identifying an intestinal polyp comprising the steps of:
 - a) obtaining a polypeptide sample derived from intestinal tissue; and

- b) determining an expression profile from an expression product of at least one informative nucleic acid molecule having decreased expression in an intestinal polyp relative to a control, said expression product being a polypeptide, wherein decreased expression of said expression product in said sample is indicative of an intestinal polyp.
- 34. (Amended) The method according to Claim 33, wherein the intestinal polyp is an upper intestinal polyp or a colonic polyp.
 - 35. (Amended) The method according to Claim 33, wherein the polypeptide sample derived from intestinal tissue is derived from upper intestinal tissue or colonic tissue.
 - 36. (Amended) The method according to Claim 33, wherein the gene expression profile is determined utilizing antibodies.
 - 37. (Amended) The method according to Claim 33, wherein one or more informative genes is selected from the group consisting of apoptosis genes, cell cycle genes, tumor suppressor genes, cell adhesion genes, transcription related genes, and inflammation genes.
 - 38. (Amended) The method according to Claim 33, wherein one or more informative genes is selected from the group consisting of the genes in Figures 1A-1U.

Please add new Claims 71 and 72.

- 71. (New) A method of identifying an intestinal polyp comprising the steps of:
 - a) obtaining a nucleic acid sample derived from intestinal tissue; and
 - b) determining a gene expression profile from a gene expression product of at least one informative gene having increased expression in an intestinal polyp relative to a control, wherein said informative gene is selected from the group consisting of the genes in Figures 1A-1U,

wherein increased expression of said gene in said sample is indicative of an intestinal polyp.

72. (New) A method of identifying an intestinal polyp comprising the steps of:
- a) obtaining a polypeptide sample derived from intestinal tissue; and
 - b) determining a gene expression profile from a gene expression product of at least one informative gene having increased expression in an intestinal polyp relative to a control, wherein said informative gene is selected from the group consisting of the genes in Figures 1A-1U, and wherein said gene expression product is a polypeptide,
- wherein increased expression of said gene expression product in said sample is indicative of an intestinal polyp.

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 4-14, 17-19, 23-32, and 36-38 is found throughout the specification, for example, at page 2, line 9, to page 6, line 11, page 6, line 23 to page 7, line 8, page 8, line 12 to page 9, line 24, and in the claims as originally filed. Claims 2-23, 15-19, 21-32, and 34-38 are also amended to replace the article "A" with the article "The" as suggested by the Examiner. Support for new Claims 71 and 72 is found throughout the specification, for example at page 2, lines 9-28, and in the claims as originally filed.

No new matter is added by these amendments.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the Supplemental IDS is respectfully requested.